

Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model Study, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas

(Operation and Maintenance Study - Scheduling Reservoir Operations)

The Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model will assist water managers in flood control operations, water accounting, and evaluation of water operations alternatives. Six Federal agencies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1996 to develop a unified water operations model and to coordinate model development activities with other Rio Grande Basin interests. As a result of model scoping and coordination activities in 1996, the six participating Federal agencies finalized a model development plan to identify future activities required for model development. In FY 1997, the Corps and the cooperating Federal agencies began model and database development with a test case for a portion of the Rio Grande basin and expanded construction and testing of the water operations model to the remaining portions in FY 1998, 1999, and 2000, including calibration and coordination with other basin interests. The operations model can perform multi-contractor accounting and forecasting to simulate daily storage and delivery operations. Verification and validation of the model continued in FY 2001. In FY 2002, in addition to use in daily water operations, a version of the model was further refined and tested to review system operations of the Rio Grande Basin. The review is the second part of the study. The water operations review began in FY 2000 with a joint lead agency agreement and public scoping meetings. In FY 2001, interdisciplinary teams described in detail the basin's existing environment and current storage and delivery operations. In FY 2002, the Corps, with several participating agencies coordinated with the public, Native American tribes, and other basin interests to formulate draft alternative operations that are within existing authorities. Evaluation of system operation alternatives and further consultation and coordination are ongoing in FY 2003. The review will recommend system operations and provide guidelines for water operators' decisions. The water operations review is expected to continue through December 2004.



Upper Rio Grande Basin
Water Operations Review and EIS